



A protective screen of Secret Service men surrounds Richard Nixon and wife Pat on recent arrival at their New York apartment.

NIXON'S INAUGURAL—THE MOST CLOSELY GUARDED

The New President and the Secret Service

by Fred Blumenthal

WASHINGTON, D.C.

At noon tomorrow, the Presidency of the United States will change hands, as it has 35 times before in the history of the Republic—and a new First Family comes into the keeping of the U.S. Secret Service.

The protection afforded President Richard M. Nixon at his inauguration will probably be the most elaborate in history. Three hundred Secret Service men will be brought in from field offices around the country. Police forces from many cities will assist the Washington force, and highly trained officers from ten government agencies will be on guard. These include men from the FBI, the Pentagon and the "Bum Squad," so named for their shabby plainclothes dress. The inaugural platform as well as the reviewing stand will be protected by bullet-proof glass. Secret Service men equipped with binoculars and rifles will cover the proceedings from helicopters, and other agents will be stationed on the roofs of the buildings along the parade route.

Mr. Nixon is about to learn the truth of Truman's wry comment:

"The Secret Service is the only boss the President really has."

A President obviously can ignore or countermand Secret Service directions, but he does so at his peril. By the nature of his job he must make frequent

public appearances and mingle with crowds of people. And it has been well understood by every Chief Executive since the turn of the century (when Presidential protection was first established following the slaying of President McKinley) that the agents have responsibilities that sometimes must override the President's personal wishes.

Blowing a fuse

President Johnson, who has been known to blow his fuse from time to time at some of the agents around him, has reason to know that they don't always have time for protocol.

"I will never forget that day in Dallas," he recalled recently, "when a great big husky roughneck from Georgia threw 185 pounds of human weight on me, and said, 'down.' And there wasn't any place to go but down, because he was on top of me."

"His life was being offered to protect mine. At least, he thought so."

The "roughneck" was agent Rufus S. Youngblood, whom Johnson has ever since treated as a warm personal friend. It is probably no coincidence that Youngblood is now deputy director under Secret Service Director James J. Rowley.

Mr. Johnson, like former President Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower, will be guarded by the Secret

Service for as long as he lives—unless he specifically refuses protection. But the security precautions will be far less rigid and confining than those required for the White House occupant, the reason being, of course, that the threat to a President's life is greatly diminished after he leaves office.

First to notice the "changing of the guard" in Washington will be the Johnson girls and Hubert and Muriel Humphrey. Under the law, they are no longer entitled to Secret Service protection. Mrs. Humphrey, actually, never was a legal responsibility of Rowley's agents. For some unexplained reason, probably an oversight, the law provides protection for the Vice President but not for his wife. In practice, however, agents were assigned to Mrs. Humphrey and will be guarding Mrs. Spiro T. Agnew.

The wives of former Presidents also have lifelong Secret Service protection, unless they remarry—a provision of the law that automatically applied to Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis when she married the Greek shipping tycoon last fall. Onassis provided the \$50,000 worth of private security for their wedding and when Jackie comes to the U.S. hires Pinkerton detectives. Eight-year-old John-John and 11-year-old Caroline, however, continue to receive the protection of the Secret Service until they reach age 16.

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The Nixons now fall heir to all the complicated and often confining security apparatus that surrounded the Johnson family through their five years in the White House. Like Lynda Bird Johnson Robb and Luci Johnson Nugent, Julie Nixon had a Secret Service escort when she went off on her honeymoon with young David Eisenhower last month. And 22-year-old Tricia Nixon will have to have an "extra man" hovering discreetly in the background on all her dates outside the White House.

And if Dick and Pat Nixon become grandparents, the youngsters, too, will have agents guarding them as long as grandpa and grandma occupy the White House.

The protective network that guards the life of a President and his family, in addition to 250 uniformed White House police under the jurisdiction of the Secret Service, consists of some 650 highly trained plainclothes Secret Service agents in 65 field offices throughout the United States. Each month they receive some 7000 bits and pieces of information that must be checked out and evaluated. The President's autos must be kept under tight security—a plastic bomb could easily be placed under a fender. Explosives can also be molded into furniture. When the President moves from room to room in the White House a buzzer indicates to the agents where he is. The Service has to cope with a steady stream of criminal investigations, such as counterfeiting of U.S. money and forgery of government checks and bonds—crimes which are sharply on the increase—but, above all, its job is to guard the President.

In charge of the permanent around-the-clock Secret Service detail of approximately 40 men inside the White House will be Robert H. Taylor. Bob Taylor, who joined the Service in 1950 and was promoted to his present post a year ago, is no stranger to Nixon. Early in 1957 he accompanied the then Vice

President on a trip to Africa and again to Caracas in May, 1958, when the Venezuelans stoned Nixon.

Taylor was born in 1926 in Iola, Kans., took his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science at Wichita State University. He lives with his wife Loretta; daughter Karen, 17, and son Kenneth, 15, in Vienna, Va., a Washington suburb.

In charge of the separate detail of about 20 men guarding Vice President Spiro Agnew is Clint Hill. He is the Secret Service agent who at the risk of his life jumped on Kennedy's moving car immediately after the shooting in Dallas. He pushed back Mrs. Kennedy, who had started to crawl over the trunk of the car, and with his body shielded her and the dying President in the 80 mph dash to the hospital.

EISENHOWER'S NARROW ESCAPE

When Eisenhower was President, a member of the press corps, a "White House regular" who covered the President's daily activities, was heard by a Secret Service agent to mutter that he was going upstairs to kill the President. This was a reporter who had almost total access to the President and whom one would not be likely to suspect. Fortunately, the agent was alert. He later had the reporter placed in a mental hospital.

Standards for admission to the Service are extremely high. Candidates today must have at least four years of college; they must be in prime physical condition and have almost perfect eyesight. Above all, they must demonstrate superior judgment for emergency situations, have stable backgrounds, and a readiness to sacrifice their own lives for the safety of their charges. Agents start at about \$7000 a year, but after five

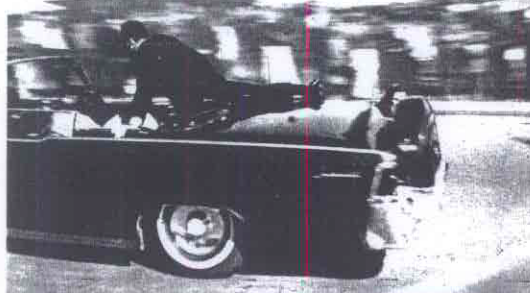
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Bob Taylor—in charge of the Secret Service White House detail of 40.



No stranger to Nixon: Taylor, at car rear, was with him in hostile Caracas in 1958.



Agent Clint Hill leaps on car after Dallas shooting, shields Mrs. Kennedy and the dying President with his body. At right, Hill is leaving church in Hyannis with the widow.



Secret Service CONTINUED

years, they average well over \$12,000, plus considerable overtime pay.

There are no racial barriers in the service. Rowley's force today includes Negroes, Chinese-Americans, Mexican-Americans, and some immigrants who still speak with foreign accents. What they all have in common is dedication to their hazardous duty, a willingness to work incredibly long hours under the most trying conditions, and an ability to adjust smoothly to the personalities, routines, and habits of their sometimes testy wards.

President Nixon and the Secret Service are well known to each other. As Vice President for eight years under Mr. Eisenhower, and again during the last five months of the 1968 campaign, Dick and Pat Nixon got the full security treatment. They are thoroughly familiar with Air Force One, the Presidential jet, and in recent weeks have been riding in the new bullet-and bomb-proof limousine which Rowley's men helped design.

'Family member'

The relationship between a President of the United States and the men who must see to his safety is a unique one. Many Presidents have come to treat the agents on White House detail as members of the family and, sometimes, have exercised the family privilege of blowing up at them.

Last Nov. 23, for example, Mr. Johnson called the White House detail together on the south lawn to witness the presentation of a Presidential award to Rowley for distinguished federal civilian service. In the course of his remarks,

Johnson acknowledged that there had been times when he had been less than gentle with some of the agents.

"A lot of things you have had to live through with me," the President said, "if I could rewrite them, I would change a lot of them. . . ."

"I have spent more of my time telling you what you did wrong than what you have done right. But Luci, Lynda, and Mrs. Johnson remind me every day of how blessed you have been to them."

The listening agents were obviously moved as the President continued:

"... I remember in Australia when I just couldn't keep back the tears when I looked in the faces of Jerry Kivett, Dick Johnson, Jerry McKinney, Lem Johns, and Bob Heyn, and the dearest of all, Rufus Youngblood, with all that paint streaming down their faces, splattered all over them, but their chins up and their President safe.

"I remember Bob Taylor standing there and letting the Cadillac run over his foot in order to protect his President from harm.

"I will never forget the great integrity that each man in this service has shown—and I don't except any of them—I mean every one of them."

When you see the inaugural ceremonies on the steps of the Capitol tomorrow, whether in person or on your television screen, with helicopters hovering overhead, honor guards drawn up in brilliant array, flags flying proudly, and dignitaries on every hand, think gratefully of those anonymous men of the Secret Service to whom President Nixon now entrusts his life.

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